Patent Claims

1. An operating device (1), in particular an operating device (1) for unlocking a locking unit (11) for locking a media unit (7) of a printer (8) in a housing (3) of a tachograph for a motor vehicle,

- having an operating element (9),
- having a front element (10) which has an operator-side front side (12) and a rear side (13),
- having a recess (14) in the front element (10), in which the operating element (9) can move,

characterized in that

- the recess (14) is surrounded by a first contact face (17) on the front element (10),
- the operating element (9) has a second contact face (18) which faces the first contact face (17) and is configured in such a way that it is in contact with the first contact face (17) in a non-actuated position,
- the second contact face (18) is removed from the first contact face (17) upon actuation,
- the second contact face (17) of the operating element (9) is stressed against the first contact face (17) of the recess (14) by means of a first elastic element (19).

2. The operating device (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the first contact face (17) is arranged on the rear side (13) of the front element (10).

3. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the operating element (9) can be moved in a manner which is guided in the recess (14) in the front element (10).

4. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the operating element

(9) has a first guide which extends on the rear side in the actuation direction (16) and interacts with a corresponding second guide.

5. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first guide and the second guide have a contour in the circumferential direction, with the result that the operating element (9) cannot be rotated.

6. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first contact face (17) and the second contact face (18) are in each case of conical configuration.

7. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first contact face (17) and the second contact face (18) are in each case of planar configuration.

8. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the operating element (9) is configured as a pushbutton and the first elastic element (19) is arranged and configured in such a way that, when the operating element (9) is actuated, it exerts a restoring force on the operating element (9) counter to the actuation direction (16).

9. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the operating element (9) is secured against rotation.

10. The operating device (1) as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the operating element (9) is secured against rotation in the recess (14) by means of a second

contour (21) of the recess (14) and a first contour of the operating element (9) which is assigned to said second contour (21).

11. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the operating element (9) is configured as a slide, and the first and second contact faces (17) are configured as sliding bearings for the slide.

12. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a carrier (34) is arranged on the rear side of the front element (10), the front element (10) being fastened to said carrier (34).

13. The operating device (1) as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the operating element (9) has a hold-down (33) which interacts with the carrier (34) with a form-fitting connection in such a way that, in the absence of the front element (10), the restoring force from the first elastic element (19) on the operating element (9) is absorbed by the carrier (34) by means of the hold-down (33).

14. The operating device (1) as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a hold-down element (30) is arranged on the rear side of the front element (10), and the operating element (9) has a hold-down (33) which interacts with the hold-down element (30) with a form-fitting connection in such a way that, in the absence of the front element (10), the restoring force from the elastic element (19) on the operating element (9) is absorbed by the hold-down element (30) by means of the hold-down (33).

15. The operating device (1) as claimed in claim 12 and 14, characterized in that the hold-down element (30) is fastened to the carrier (34).